Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OSLO 00156 092230Z

67
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

FAA-00 /062 W
---------- 039766
O R 092018Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0963
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0156

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR,OTRA,SV,SU,NO
SUBJ: NORWEGIANS TO PROTEST SOVIET VIOLATION OF SVALBARD AIRPORT AGREEMENT

REFS: 75 OSLO 5640, 75 OSLO 5348, 75 OSLO 4337, 75 OSLO 3426, OSLO 0070

SUMMARY: NORWEGIANS WILL CALL IN SOVIET AMBASSADOR NEXT WEEK TO ISSUE STRONG PROTEST ON THE UNEXPECTED ARRIVAL IN SVALBARD OF FAMILIES OF SOVIET AIRPORT PERSONNEL. NORWEGIANS CLAIM THIS IS VIOLATION OF AIRPORT AGREEMENT. THUS FAR SOVIETS HAVE ONLY ACTED IN OPEN DEFIANCE OF NORWEGIANS ON THE ISSUE. NORWEGIANS ARE VERY CONCERNED BECAUSE OF PRECEDENCE SOVIET ACTION CREATES AND FACT THEY CANNOT UNDERSTAND SOVIET BEHAVIOR IN CASE. BUT THEY ALSO KNOW OPINION IN NORWAY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OSLO 00156 092230Z

IS STRONGLY AGAINST LETTING SOVIETS GET AWAY WITH THIS

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

ACTION AND THEY FEAR FOR EFFECT CASE MAY HAVE ON
NORWEGIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND HAS ASKED TO SEE
SOVIET AMBASSADOR KIRICHENKO EARLY NEXT WEEK TO
PROTEST THE UNEXPECTED AND EARLIER
DISAPPROVED ARRIVAL OF FAMILIES OF THE SOVIET AIRPORT
PERSONNEL NOW STATIONED ON SVALBARD. BECAUSE KIRICHENKO
IS IN MOSCOW DUE TO DEATH OF HIS FATHER, PLAN
WAS TO MAKE PROTEST TO SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR
SMIRNOV. BUT BECAUSE OF SERIOUSNESS OF CASE AND NEED
TO CHECK AIRPORT AGREEMENTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS,
FRYDENLUND DECIDED TO WAIT FOR KIRICHENKO.

2. ACCORDING TO FOREIGN MINISTRY POLAR ADVISOR
BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN,ISSUE AROSE SHORTLY BEFORE
CHRISTMAS. ON DEC 23 SOVIET THREE-ENGINE JET TRANSPORT
ARRIVED LONGYEARBYEN WITH FOUR WIVES OF SOVIET AIRPORT
PERSONNEL, A "NEGOTIATING TEAM" OF THREE,BEDS FOR
THE SOVIET FAMILIES AND A LOAD OF CEMENT. NEGOTIATING
TEAM WAS LED BY VINOGRADOV,WHO PARTICIPATED IN
AIRPORT AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS, AND INCLUDED JELISEEV,
WHO IS REPORTEDLY IN ENVIRONMENTAL WORK NOW AND WHO
TOOK PART IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR BILATERAL SCIENCE AGREEMENT
IN FEB 74, AND GUSEROV OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

3. ALTHOUGH NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS WERE ON AIRCRAFT
MANIFEST, ARRIVAL WAS IN CLEAR VIOLATION OF INSTRUC-
TIONS OF NORWEGIAN AUTHORITIES. IN NOVEMBER SOVIET
STATION CHIEF AT LONGYEARBYEN AIRPORT CALLED ON HIS
NORWEGIAN COUNTERPART ASKING HIM TO FURNISH NEWLY
CONSTRUCTED APARTMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL PEOPLE.
NORWEGIAN CHIEF SAID HE WOULD NOT AS IT WAS AGAINST
AGREEMENT AND TOLD SOVIET TO HAVE AUTHORITIES
TAKE UP MATTER OFFICIALLY BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS IN
CAPITALS. NOTHING MORE WAS HEARD OF MATTER UNTIL
PLANE MANIFEST WAS DELIVERED AND AIRCRAFT LANDED ON
SVALBARD.

4. AFTER PLANE ARRIVAL NORWEGIANS QUERIED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OSLO 00156 092230Z

MOSCOW AND RECEIVED NOT IN REPLY WHICH BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN
SAYS BORDERS ON INCOMPREHENSIBLE BUT MEANS THAT
NORWEGIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE NO BUSINESS DECIDING
HOW MANY RUSSIANS INHABIT AIRPORT APARTMENTS.

5. NORWEGIANS CLEARLY BELIEVE THEY DO HAVE THIS
AUTHORITY. THEY DRAW UPON MARCH 7 74 SVALBARD
AIRPORT AGREEMENT WHICH SAYS AEROFLOT CAN HAVE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

"UP TO FIVE OR SIX PEOPLE" AT AIRPORT. ON THIS BASIS
NORWEGIAN CIVIL AVIATION BOARD DESIGNED AND LATER
SIGNED CONTRACT ON JUNE 17,1975,WITH SOVIETS FOR ONE
FAMILY AND FIVE ADDITIONAL SINGLE-PERSON APARTMENTS.
NORWEGIAN TRANSLATION USES NORWEGIAN WORD FOR SINGLE-
PERSON APARTMENTS BUT SOVIET CONTRACT SPELLS OUT
"ONE-PERSON" APARTMENTS. FURTHER,IN DISCUSSIONS OF
THE MATTER SOVIETS HAD TOLD NORWEGIANS THAT THE
WIFE OF THE AIRPORT STATION CHIEF WOULD TEND TO THE
OTHER APARTMENTS. SO NORWEGIANS FEEL THEY ARE ON
STRONG AND CLEAR GROUNDS.
6. ARRIVAL OF WIVES AND NEGOTIATORS IN DECEMBER CAUSED
NEGATIVE REACTION AMONG NORWEGIAN COMMUNITY OF
LONGYEARBYEN,ESPECIALLY SINCE VINOGRADOV WAS COARSE
AND OPENLY DEFIANT OF NORWEGIAN AUTHORITIES. ALSO
THE SIX-MAN AIRPORT GROUP HAS BEEN OVERTLY STEPPING
UP A SERIES OF CONTACTS WITH INDIVIDUAL NORWEGIANS,
SHOWING FILMS AND DISTRIBUTING INFORMATION IN WHAT
BEGINS TO BORDER ON A CULTURAL PROGRAM.

7. NORWEGIANS THEN CALLED MEETING OF GOVERNMENT'S
POLAR COMMITTEE IN TROMSO JAN 7. AT MEETING SVALBARD
SYSSELMANN(GOVERNOR) AIRPORT STATION CHIEF AND
STORE NORSKE COAL COMPANY DIRECTOR OUTLINED THEIR
PERSONAL AND LONGYEARBYEN COMMUNITY'S STRONG REACTION
AGAINST SOVIET ACTION. BESIDES SOVIET DEFIANCE, ACTION
WAS DISCRIMINATORY SINCE MOST NORWEGIANS ARE NOT
ABLE TO BRING THEIR FAMILIES THERE. IN COURSE OF
MEETING AIRPORT CHIEF MADE IT CLEAR HE WOULD RESIGN
IF GOVERNMENT DID NOT ACT FIRMLY AND SYSSELMANN WITH
LESS VEHEMENCE SAID HE WOULD TOO. COMMITTEE RECOM-
MENDED THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE MATTER UP IMMEDIATELY
WITH SOVIETS SAYING THIS WAS A VIOLATION OF AIRPORT
CONFIDENTIAL

AGREEMENT AND UNDER ITS TERMS THE AGREEMENT
WOULD THEREFORE BE TERMINATED IN THREE MONTHS, AT
WHICH TIME ALL SOVIETS MUST DEPART. THIS ACTION WOULD
BE TAKEN IF REVIEW OF LL AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS
SHOWED NORWAY'S CASE WAS SOLID AND IF
LONGYEARBYEN POPULATION WOULD SUPPORT SUCH ACTION.
GOVERNMENT'S LEGAL AUTHORITIES HAVE SINCE REPORTED
THAT NORWAY'S CASE IS SOUND AND SYSSELMANN
HAS INDICATED THAT LOCAL COMMUNITY WANTS FIRM ACTION
ON THE PRINCIPLE OF THE MATTER THOUGH THEY ARE
LESS CONCERNED ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET FAMILIES
THERE.

8. FOREIGN MINISTER IS NOW PREPARING TO MEET WITH
SOVIET AMBASSADOR ON HIS RETURN. WHILE FRYDENLUND

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

HAS NOT DECIDED FINALLY ON HIS COURSE OF ACTION,
IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT NORWEGIANS CANNOT BACK DOWN ON
THIS,PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF FIRM PARLIAMENTARY
GUIDELINES GIVEN IN STORTING DEBATE. IN THE MIDDLE
OF THIS LABOR IS PUTTING TOGETHER NEW GOVERNMENT
(OSLO 0070) NORWEGIANS ARE PUZZLED OVER APPARENT
RECKLESS MANNER IN WHICH SOVIETS HAVE HANDLED THE
MATTER, THOUGH THEY SUSPECT SOVIETS THOUGHT THAT
THE FAMILY ASPECTS OF THE ISSUE WOULD BE HARD FOR THE
NORWEGIANS TO REFUSE. THE NORWEGIANS ARE ADDITIONALLY
CONCERNED THAT THE CASE COULD PROVOKE SERIOUS
DETERIORATION OF NORWEGIAN SOVIET RELATIONS,WHICH
HAVE BEEN STRAINED BY BUT APPEARED TO HAVE WEATHERED
THE CRITICISM EVOKED IN THE SAKHAROV CASE AND THE
SVALBARD DEBATE.

9. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND AND WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT
SOVIETS WILL REPLY, THE FOREIGN MINISTER MAY IN HIS
PROTEST NEXT WEEK SEEK TO PERSUADE SOVIETS TO
WITHDRAW THE NEW FAMILY ARRIVALS UNDER THE CLEAR
RECOGNITION THAT NORWAY MAY OTHERWISE HAVE TO TERMINATE
THE AGREEMENT.
BYRNE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOVEREIGNTY, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OSLO00156
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: I
Film Number: D760008-1105
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760171/aaaaclhf.tel
Line Count: 192
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 OSLO 5640, 75 OSLO 5348, 75 OSLO 4337
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAR 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORWEGIANS TO PROTEST SOVIET VIOLATION OF SVALBARD AIRPORT AGREEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, OTRA, EAIR, SV, SU, NO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006